



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## ZOOLOGY

THE SNOW GOOSE.—On the 6th of October, 1873, I shot at Mt. Carmel, Illinois, a fine adult male *Anser hyperboreus*, which had been living with a flock of tame geese for nearly a year. The bird had been crippled in the wing the preceding fall, but the wound, which was merely in the muscles, soon healed, and it escaped by flight. It flew about half a mile, and, observing a flock of tame geese upon the grassy “commons” between the town and the river, alighted among them. It continued to stay with them, going home with the flock regularly every evening, to be fed and enclosed in the barn-yard.

My attention was attracted to this bird by its owner, Mr. Thomas Hoskinson, from whom I got the above facts; and who kindly told me that if I would shoot the bird he was willing to have it sacrificed to science. Accordingly, I repaired to the “commons” and found the flock at a locality designated. After some little search the “white brant” was discovered, being distinguished by its black quill-feathers, rather smaller size, shorter neck, black instead of bluish eyes, and the black space along the commissures of the bill. When unmolested this bird was as unmindful of a person as the tame geese, and it required chase to make it endeavor to escape, which it always did by rising easily from the ground, and flying to the river—sometimes half a mile distant.

The specimen was in fine plumage and excellent condition, and made a very clean, perfect specimen when prepared. It measured as follows:—Length, 27 inches; extent, 57; wing, 17; culmen, 2.25; tarsus, 2; middle toe, 1.75. Its weight was 5½ lbs. Bill deep flesh-color, the upper mandible with a salmon-colored tinge, and the lower with a rosy pink flush; the terminal ungui nearly white; the commissures enclose an elongate oval space of deep black; iris very dark brown; eyelids greenish-white; tarsi and toes purple-lake, the soles of the feet dingy Naples-yellow.

A remarkable feature of this specimen is that one or two of the primaries are entirely pure white, while most of the remaining ones have longitudinal spaces, of greater or less extent, on the inner webs. The question arises, whether this is merely a case

of partial albinism, or a change produced by the modified condition of its food and mode of life.—ROBERT RIDGWAY.

## GEOLOGY.

DEEP SEA TEMPERATURE IN THE ANTARCTIC SEA.—In the Report to the Admiralty of Capt. G. S. Nares, of H. M. S. Challenger, dated Melbourne, March 25, 1874, Capt. Nares, speaking of the temperature of the ocean, especially near the pack edge of the ice, says:—"At a short distance from the pack, the surface water rose to 32°, but at a depth of 40 fathoms we always found the temperature to be 29°; this continued to 300 fathoms, the depth in which most of the icebergs float, after which there is a stratum of slightly warmer water of 33° or 34°. As the thermometers had to pass through these two belts of water before reaching the bottom, the indices registered those temperatures, and it was impossible to obtain the exact temperature of the bottom whilst near the ice, but the observations made in lower latitudes show that it is about 31°. More exact results could not have been obtained even had Mr. Siemens' apparatus been on board."

ORIGIN OF THE VALLEY OF THE RHINE.—Geologists intending to travel up the Rhine should by all means read an interesting paper by Prof. A. C. Ramsay on the origin of the Valley of the Rhine, contained in the Quarterly Journal of the London Geological Society (May 1, 1874). He states that the valley during portions of the miocene tertiary period was drained by a river flowing from north southwards, and after the upheaval of the Alps the present river originated and flowed through an elevated plain formed of miocene rocks, leaving the existing plain, "which to the uninstructed eye presents the deceptive appearance of once having been occupied by a great lake."

## ANTHROPOLOGY.

EXTENT OF THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATION OF PERU.—Prof. C. F. Hart writes to the president of the Anthropological Society of Berlin, that in a journey to the river Amazon he found some pieces of pottery of which some recall curious forms discovered in Peru, and which prove that the ancient Peruvian civilization extended to the eastern side of the Andes.